DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 172 680 HE 011 498

AUTHOR Garber, Herbert
TITLE Students Who Withdrew from Oswego During 1975-76.
INSTITUTION State Univ. of New York, Oswego. Coll. at Oswego.
PUB DATE May 77
NOTE 6p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS College Attendance; Degrees (Titles); *Graduation; Higher Education; Institutional Research; *School Holding Power; *State Colleges; *Student Characteristics; Trend Analysis; *Undergraduate Students; *Withdrawal
IDENTIFIERS *State University of New York Coll at Oswego

ABSTRACT

Characteristics of students who withdrew from the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Oswego during 1975-76 were studied to determine if previously studied trends are continuing. Data are provided on the withdrawal rate for each undergraduate class, by sex, and by college major. The size of the freshman class and the numbers of degrees granted four years later are examined for Oswego and 11 comparable SUNY colleges. It was found that about 12 percent of registered full-time undergraduate students officially withdrew from college during 1975-76. This is a two percent increase over the previous year. The largest degree programs lost fewer students, in the aggregate, than did the total college. Women undergraduates continue to leave in good standing at a substantially higher rate than do men students. Although students continue to withdraw in slightly increasing numbers, the production of degrees continues to exceed the numbers of freshmen who entered four years earlier. Other similar SUNY units have the same experience. (SW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED172680

State University of New York
College at Oswego

Office of Institutional Research

Research Report

Students Who Withdrew from Oswego During 1975-76

By
Herbert Garber, Ph.D., Director

May, 1977

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Herbert Garber

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

HE011 498

Students Who Withdrew from Oswego During 1975-76

Introduction

In the present climate of contracting resources and stable numbers of college age youth, there is considerable interest in movement of full-time undergraduate students into and out from this college. The students who withdraw in good standing are of particular interest. College staff are probably correct to focus interest on them since they compose the largest single group of students and are enrolled in the greatest number of programs.

A report done by this office one year ago described the students who left Oswego in terms of certain characteristics and also attempted to contact a sample of them to learn more about why they chose and left Oswego and their subsequent educational activities.[1]

The present study was done to determine if the trends noted in the earlier research have changed or continued. We did not replicate the follow-up aspects however. Rather, this report will show only the characteristics of students who officially withdrew. (Those who were academically disqualified, those who "walked away" without formal notification, and those not in a degree program are not included.)

The numbers who withdrew from each of the four classes, their sex, and major are the characteristics to be described.

In addition, comparisons of attrition from incoming first-time freshman cohorts and the numbers of degrees conferred will be made for Oswego and eleven other comparable SUNY colleges.

Results

1. Withdrawing Students by Program, 1975-76

TABLE ONE shows the numbers who were enrolled in each undergraduate academic program, what proportion they were of all full-time degree program students, the "expected" withdrawal rate from each program, the actual rate, and, finally, the ratio between the actual and the "expected" rate. This last entry indicates the extent to which a program has experienced a higher or lower rate of withdrawing students than the average for the entire college. i.e. a ratio of 1.00 means that that program "lost" proportionately as many students as did the average program; roughly 15%. Similarly, if the ratio is .50, that program experienced only half the number of withdrawing students as the average program had and a ratio of 2.00 would mean twice as many as would be expected.

[1] "A Follow-up Study of Students Who Withdrew from Oswego, 1974-75," Office of Institutional Research, March 1976

Just as was true a year ago, industrial arts, elementary education, business administration, psychology, and biology, in that order, are the five largest degree programs. About 54% of degree students were enrolled in those five. One can see that the ratios of actual to expected losses from those largest programs range from a low of .49 for industrial arts to a moderate high of 1.45 for biology. Summing their total aggregate enrollments and loss rates and doing some simple dividing reveals that among them they had a ratio of only .83. In other words, students left their programs through official withdrawal from college at a rate of 12 percent of enrolled students as compared to the 15 percent for all programs (see Table 1.1).

One undesirable note: The 898 who withdrew in 1975-76 exceeds the previous year when only 729 officially withdrew. The earlier rate was about 10% of the total enrollment while the later one is about 12%.

TABLE TWO shows that women continue to leave Oswego in good-standing at a higher rate than their male classmates. This is expecially notable in the lower division where we find that freshman and sophomore women who leave outnumber male leavers significantly. Full-time degree program women were 47% of all such students enrolled yet 52% of those who left college voluntarily were female. These rates are almost identidal to the comparable statistics from academic year 1974-75.

TABLE THREE displays the numbers and proportions who left from each class. One can see clearly that sophomore and junior women have the highest likelihood of withdrawing from Oswego (.20 each).

2. Withdrawing from College Versus Degrees Granted

Oswego is but one unit of a very large university. One is tempted to ask if the statistics described above are peculiar to this campus alone. Do other four year SUNY colleges have a similar experience? More importantly, we may want to know also if higher education in New York state has attained the kind of maturity parallel to American manufacturing in which students are analogous to interchangeable parts in automobiles.

One way to test this hypothesis is to examine so-called "yield rates" at Oswego and her sister institutions. If we look at the size of freshman classes in a given year, say, 1972, and compare them to the numbers of degrees granted four years later we obtain a fair estimation of actual output or productivity.

TABLE FOUR displays this experience in productivity for the 12 four year colleges (Empire State College was omitted because of its specialized character).[2]

[2] Data taken from the two reports: Trends in Enrollment and Degrees Granted, 1948-1976, No. 7-77, and Geographic Origins of First Time Students, Fall 1972, No. 39, Office of Institutional Research, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, N. Y.

One can see that except for four colleges, all campuses conferred more degrees than can be accounted for by the enrollments of beginning freshmen four years earlier. Oswego ranked seventh of the twelve in terms of the ratio of degrees granted to the earlier freshman cohort. Also, one can see that these University Colleges generally produce 23% more degrees than would be predicted from their incoming freshmen only.

One may conclude that exodus from Oswego may, in many instances, represent a mere shift to another SUNY unit. Other four year campuses evidently have a similar experience. Also, from the follow-up study cited above, it appears that two-thirds who leave intend to enroll elsewhere. We can safely assume that most have transferred within SUNY.

Conclusion

About twelve percent of our registered full-time undergraduate students officially withdrew from college during 1975-76. This is a two percent increase over the previous year.

The most populous degree programs lost fewer students, in the aggregate, than did the total college.

Women undergraduates continue to leave in good standing at a substantially higher rate than do men students. This is difficult to interpret in terms of degree programs. Both industrial arts and elementary education are predominated by one sex with males dominating the former, females the latter. Both programs had large enrollments and lost relatively few of their students.

Although students continue to withdraw in slightly increasing numbers, the production of degrees continues to exceed the numbers of freshmen who entered four years earlier. Other similar SUNY units have the same experience. Therefore one may safely conclude that SUNY students are being served somewhat adequately while regarding the entire University as their alma mater.

TABLE 1

Withdrawing Students by Program, 1975-76

Major	Number*	% Major of Total FT S's	Expected # W/D	Actual # W/D	Ratio Actual/ Expected
Amer. Studies	18	0.25	2.75	1	.36
Anthro.	51	0.70	7.8	10	1.28
Art	180	2.50	27.5	44	1.60
Biology	298	4.15	45.6	66	1.45
Bus. Ad.	607	8.44	92.9	86	.93
Chemistry	64	0.89	9.8	9	.92
Commun. St.	185	2.57	28.3	41	1.45
Computer Sci.	194	2.70	29.7	25	.84
Economics	72	1.00	11.0	11	1.00
Elem. Educ.	670	9.32	102.5	60	.59
English	156	2.17	23.9	41	1.72
French	30	0.42	4.6	11	2.39
German	19	0.26	2.9	0	--
Geog.	20	0.28	3.1	4	1.29
Geology	19	0.26	2.9	3	1.03
History	97	1.35	14.8	14	.95
Indust. Arts	828	11.52	126.7	62	.49
Linguistics	9	0.12	1.4	1	.71
Mathematics	79	1.10	12.1	23	1.90
Math./Econ.	3	0.04	.5	0	--
Meteorology	62	0.86	9.5	9	.95
Music	43	0.59	6.6	10	1.52
Philosophy	14	0.19	2.1	3	1.43
Philos./Psych.	17	0.24	2.6	3	1.15
Physics	19	0.26	2.9	4	1.38
Political Sci.	149	2.07	22.8	32	1.40
Psychology	360	5.01	55.1	70	1.27
Public Just.	209	2.91	32.0	17	.53
Russian	8	0.11	1.2	4	3.33
Sec. Educ.	262	3.64	40.1	39	.97
Sociology	158	2.19	24.2	30	1.24
Spanish	42	0.58	6.4	15	2.34
Speech Educ.	11	0.15	1.7	0	--
Soc. Sci.	48	0.67	7.3	5	.68
Theatre	49	0.68	7.5	10	1.33
Zoology	76	1.06	11.6	20	1.72
UNDECIDED	2062	28.69	247.4	115	.47
W/O UNDECIDED	5126	71.31	784	783	.15
TOTAL	7188	100.0	---	698	.12

* Total FT S's Registered, Fall 1975

** Expected withdrawal = W/O "NONE" Rate times Number enrolled. (W/O "NONE" Rate = 5126 ÷ 783 = .153)

TABLE 1.1

Withdrawing Students from Five Largest Programs

Major	Number*	% Major of Total FT S's	Expected # W/D	Actual # W/D	Ratio Actual/ Expected
IA. EE. BA. Psy. & Bio.	2763	54.0	414	344	.83

TABLE 2

Class and Sex of Withdrawing Students, 1975-76 (Full-Time)

	FR	Prop /Tot	SO	Prop /Tot	JR	Prop /Tot	SR	Prop /Tot	TOTAL	Prop /Tot
MALE	70	.08	146	.16	160	.18	60	.07	436	.48
FEMALE	102	.11	169	.19	160	.18	32	.04	463	.52
TOTAL	172	.19	315	.35	320	.36	92	.10	899	1.00

TABLE 3

Proportion of Each Class Who Withdrew by Sex, 1975-76

		FR	SO	JR	SR	TOTAL
MALE	WITHDR.	70	146	160	60	436
	TOT ENR.	1260	931	1055	820	4066
	PROP.	.06	.16	.15	.07	.11
FEMALE	WITHDR.	102	169	160	32	463
	TOT ENR.	1176	856	795	612	3439
	PROP.	.09	.20	.20	.05	.13
TOTAL	WITHDR.	172	315	320	92	899
	TOT ENR.	2436	1787	1850	1432	7505
	PROP.	.07	.18	.17	.06	.12

TABLE 4

First-Time, Full-Time Enrollments and Degrees Granted Four Years Later by SUNY Colleges of Arts and Sciences, 1972-76

College	A Fall '72 Enroll. First Time (F-T)	B Degrees Granted 75-76	B/A*
Brockport	873	1796	2.05
Buffalo	1271	2086	1.64
Cortland	903	1173	1.30
Fredonia	1177	891	.76
Geneseo	806	1155	1.43
New Paltz	1064	1145	1.08
Old Westbury	220	139	.63
Oneonta	964	1339	1.39
Oswego	1411	1544	1.09
Plattsbury	1033	1184	1.15
Potsdam	824	796	.97
Purchase	371	220	.59
TOTAL	10,917	13,468	1.23

* Column B ÷ A